and other parts of the country, in view of the reported involvement of some personnel of these agencies in crimes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of its consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

In order to provide for the regulation of private security guards and agencies, the Private Security Guards and Agencies (Regulation) Bill, 1994 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 14th December, 1994. The Bill is pending consideration in the Rajya Sabha.

Stagnation of sepoys working in S.S.B.

†670. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sepoys working in S.S.B. have been stagnating on the same post for more than 20 years and have not been promoted even after taking J.C.C. training;

(b) whether Government propose to bring these employees under A.C.P. scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) The promotion in any cadre depends upon the availability of vacancies in the higher grade. Accordingly, eligible Sepoys in SSB have been promoted to fill up the available vacancies in higher grade.

(b) and (c) ACP Scheme has already been introduced in SSB.

ISI Network

671. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item captioned "ISI tentacles deep and wide" as reported in the Statesman dated the 15th January, 2002;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether ISI has established a formidable network in India;

(c) whether the Government of India have permitted ISI to set up such centres in various parts; and

(d) if not, the policy of Government to smash such centres in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is aware that Pak ISI is involved in aiding, abetting and supporting terrorism in various parts of the country.

(c) and (d) In order to deal with the situation, Government have adopted a well-coordinated and multi-pronged approach for tackling the activities of ISI which includes strengthening the border management, galvanizing the intelligence machinery, neutralizing plans of ISI by well coordinated intelligence based operations, setting up of out-posts of security forces in vulnerable areas and modernization and upgradation of police security forces with advanced sophisticated weapons and communication system etc.

Central Government has also been sensitizing the State Governments about the threat perception and activities of ISI in the country. Periodic coordination meetings are also held with the State Governments for sharing the inputs from various quarters as well as for devising strategies to counter such activities. Various security agencies belonging to the Union and States have been working together to check the activities of ISI. As a result of coordinated action, a number of ISI backed modules have been neutralized.

Terrorists plan to kidnap important personalities

672. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the 'Samana' dated the 31st January, 2002 that terrorists have plan to abduct the world famous Indian Cricketers Sachin Tendulkar, Saurav Ganguly and Scientist Abdul Kalam;

(b) if so, whether this news is correct or not; and

(c) the details of the steps Government have taken/propose to take to spoil their plan and protect the above important personalities?